Permission to Immigrants for Going Back to UAE

1230. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Indians who were recently deported from UAE, as illegal immigrants, have been permitted by the United Arab Emirate authorities to come back to UAE after obtaining the required emigration documents;

(b) if so, the number of people who have since gone back to UAE with proper documents; and

(c) whether inquiries have been made into the matter, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The UAE Government has not placed any restriction on the return of Indian workers who left UAE last year, on account of their illegal status. However, to re-enter UAE they are required to hold valid passports and visas.

(b) and (c) The actual number of Indians, out of those who returned from UAE, who have gone back to UAE cannot be estimated as they are not required to identify themselves as returnees either at the time of exit from India or report to Indian Embassy, Abu Dhabi or the Consulate General of India, Dubai on arrival in UAE.

Deceased Army Officials of UN Force

1231. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian army officers and men have so far laid their lives since inception of UN Peace-Keeping Forces, while participating in operation of such forces;

(b) the number of officers and men of Indian Armed Forces are at present on the UN Peace-Keeping assignments; and

(c) whether the dependents of Indian Armed Forces personnel who die on UN Peace-Keeping duties are paid comparatively much smaller amounts as compensation for life or major physical impairment then that paid to army officers of other countries on UN assignments; if so, the steps have been and are being taken to obtain fair compensation for the Indian personnel?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) 90 officers and men of the Indian Army have so far laid their lives in UN Peace Keeping Operations since inception.

(b) As on 12.2.1997, 1120 officers and men of Indian Armed Forces are deployed in United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations. These include 120 officers, 53 Junior Commissioned Officers and 947 Other Ranks.

(c) The UN scales of Death and Disability Benefits to troops engaged io UN Peace Keeping Operations are based on national allowances admissible in the country of origin. The Government have liiken up with UN the question of applying uniform UN scale of compensation for death and disability, irrespective of nationality of troops.

Germany's support to India for Permanent Membership in Security Council

1232. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has recently of fered to support India for becoming as permanent member in the UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the other nuclear-powers, permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council and other mem bers of the UN, so far indicated their

support for India's claim for such permanent membership of the Security Council; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for' securing permanent membership of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) During his recent visit to India, the German Foreign Minister made positive statements about India's candidature. Discussions of Security Council re-structuring are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. So far there is no consensus on individual candidates or criteria for expansion. Mauritius, Bhutan, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Lao PDR have made statements at the UN in support of India's candidature for permanent membership. The Government is also in touch with other Member States both bilaterally and at the UN. We have indicated that any proposal to expand the Council should be comprehensive in nature, and non-discriminatory.

Expulsion of Indian Diplomats by America

1233. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. has expelled two Indian diplomats recently for their alleged activities incompatible with their consular status, if so, the details thereof and the implication thereof;

(b) the action Government proposed to take;

(c) the details of Indian diplomats expelled from different countries; country-wise during last two ye.ars; year-wise; and

(d) the action taken against the officials expelled?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The US authorities havr recently requested withdrawal of two Indian diplomats stationed in the United States alleging activities incompatible with their consular status. In a statement issued on 17 February, the Government of India have expressed deep regret at this decision. The individuals concerned were discharging their normal responsibilities as Consular Officers. Government of India has categorically rejected any implication to the contrary. The concerned officials will be returning to India shortly.

(c) The Government of Pakistan has, during the last two years, declared the following non-diplomatic India based offi cials posted in the Indian High Commis sion in Pakistan as persona-non-grata, under the false allegation that they were indulging in activities incompatible with their official status.

(i) A.C. Sinha, staff member, HCI Islamabad (1/10/1996)

(ii) A.K. Wahi, staff member, HCI Islamabad (26/10/1996)

Government of India has, in these cases of expulsion of our personnel from Pakistan, categorically rejected the Pakistani allegations. Government have conveyed to Pakistan that its actions in this regard are totally unacceptable and that use of violence by Pakistani intelligence operatives against Indian Mission personnel based in Pakistan is a matter of deep regret and serious concern. Government have also demanded that Government of Pakistan take all necessary steps for the safety of our personnel in Pakistan.

(d) Does not arise in view of the false allegations levelled against the non-di plomats that they were indulging in ac tivities incompatible with their official status.

Opening of new Passport Office in Bihar

1234. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new passport offices and collection centres in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?